

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Utah Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

**Cemetery Board Meeting Notes**

**Date:** February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Salt Lake Veterans Nursing Home Board Room

**Present:** Johnnie Janes, Board President; Tony Galvez, Dennis McFall, Dana A. Meier, Craig V. Morgan, Daniel Rioux, Leon Stolz

**Absent:** None

Following the introduction of the new board members, the meeting was called to order by Board President, Johnnie Janes at 14:07.

**1. First Item of Business:** Keeping the federal reimbursement monies out of the Utah Legislature's general fund.

**Discussion:** The Board President ask the members of the Board to help ensure the Federal monies due to the State as a reimbursement for the Ogden Veterans Home remain in the UTDVA account and not placed in the Legislative General Fund. The federal funds needed as "seed money" for the construction of two additional veteran homes in Utah. Members were directed to appeal to their State Representative and Senator for a commitment to keeping the funds available for the future homes.

**2. Second Item of Business:** The President asked Craig V. Morgan, the new Director of the Veterans Cemetery, to report on recent changes and items of interest at the cemetery.

Reported Items:

A. The cemetery audit directed by UTDVA Director, Terry Schow. Director Schow directed Morgan, a former Army Colonel and Inspector General, to audit cemetery operation to discover areas that require corrections. The audit and findings were completed in May 2009.

The audit report revealed three areas needing immediate attention:

1) The Sexton/Cemetery Director was not managing cemetery operations. The sexton did not take the initiative to, nor did he have any plans to, correct cemetery problems with employees, grounds maintenance or other issues.

2) There was no accurate or effective means to control or monitor equipment purchases. There was no inventory system or any type of property book that listed cemetery equipment.

3) The cemetery needed a current set of operational references. Interviews with cemetery personnel revealed they did not know of any rules, guidelines, regulations or laws relative to burial procedures. Additionally, since none of the employees ever served in the military, they were unaware of military protocol or honors involved in veteran funeral/burial services.

B. Morgan also reported on a proposed cemetery museum and monument initiated by Representative Ken Sumsion.

**Discussion:** The plan would include a new detached building for the museum and an outdoor “Wall of Honor” monument of some type. It was noted that funds required for the project would all come from private donations generated by Rep. Sumsion. The board reviewed the initial drawings and proposed location for the building and monument but voiced concerns about losing many future grave sites by allowing the building to be built on a prime burial area.

After discussion a motion was made to consider the project based on the following conditions: additional details the size and scope of the project, NCA approval of the project by Mr. Frank Salvas, no future grave sites would be lost and/or a possible land exchange to replace lost burial areas. The motion was seconded and passed.

C. Morgan also reported on the DFCM funded paving project scheduled for completion NLT: mid-May. The board members acknowledged the paving was needed and agreed to moving the project forward.

**3. Third Item of Business:** Mr. Dana Meier recommended the board appoint a Board President to serve for the next two years. He then made a motion to reappoint current President, Johnnie Janes as the next board president. The motion was seconded and passed.

**4. Next board meeting.** May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 14:00 at the Veterans Cemetery.

5. Morgan will compile the meeting minutes and distribute them to all board members by email.

Meeting adjourned: 3:58 p.m.

End of Minutes